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ABSTRACT

A study was conducted by the Trumbull Campus (TC) of Kent State University, in Ohio, to determine the motivations, objectives, and level of satisfaction of transient students, or students pursuing a degree at another institution but enrolled in courses at TC. Surveys were mailed to 50 transient students enrolled in summer 1993, with completed questionnaires received from 60% (n=29). An analysis of responses revealed the following: (1) the most important factor in the decision to take classes at TC was location, cited by 23 respondents; (2) the majority of respondents indicated that they had made their decision to take summer courses at TC in or before January, February, and March; (3) students cited 21 different community colleges and universities within Ohio and other states as their home institutions; (4) the average age of respondents was 21 years; (5) while transient students seemed to have no particular preference of courses, they did lean toward those that fulfilled liberal education requirements; (6) the majority indicated that they were beyond their freshman year; (7) students' self-reported grade point averages (GPA's) ranged from 2.6 to 4.0, with an average of 3.27; and (8) overall, respondents rated the campus environment and services very high, while the three highest-rated areas were registration, teaching quality, and campus cleanliness. (Includes student comments and lists of cited home institutions and most commonly taken courses.) (KP)

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Summer 1993 Transient Student Report

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A survey was conducted with transient students attending Kent Trumbull one or more Summer sessions 1993. A transient student is defined as a student pursuing a degree in another institution who enrolls to take courses at Kent Trumbull. Transient students are enrolled temporarily at Kent Trumbull. The transient population is highest during the summer sessions because many students are home from their schools for the summer and use the opportunity to pick up one or more classes.

A survey was constructed to extract specific information about students' transient behavior, i.e. reasons for choosing to do transient work, desired courses, home institutions, etc. In addition the survey asked general questions about student satisfaction with aspects of their Kent Trumbull experience.

Fifty students were identified as transient students attending classes during one or more of the three summer 1993 sessions at the Kent Trumbull Campus.

Fifty surveys were mailed to identified transient students; twenty-nine completed surveys were returned; a 60% response rate.

ANALYSIS OF RESPONSES

Students were asked to identify the most important factor in deciding to take transient coursework at Kent Trumbull.

Students responses indicated the most important factor in their decision to take summer classes at Kent Trumbull was location. Of the 29 total completed surveys, 23 indicated location as the most important factor in their decision.

Students were asked when they decided to take summer coursework.

Students indicated they decided to take summer classes as transient students in January, February and March. The range

of responses indicated the time of this decision ranged from October to June with the most frequently identified time as January 1st.

Students were asked to identify their home institution.

Responses indicated Kent Trumbull summer transient students came from a variety of institutions within Ohio and various other states. See Page 7 for a list of home institutions. Student ages ranged from 18 to 24 with an average age of 21 years. No trends or concentration as far as location of residence of transient students was found.

An analysis of course selection of transient students presented some generalities. First, transient students seem to have no particular preference of courses other than a leaning toward courses that fulfill liberal education requirements. Accounting and Business Technologies were also represented as a transient student choice. Related to course selection is class standings. The majority of transient students respondents indicated that they were beyond their freshman year. This would indicate that upper division coursework would be attractive to transient students.

When asked how they heard about Kent Trumbull, transient students responded with a variety of different answers.

In general, responses identified ... friends and family and then individual phone inquiries and campus visits. It should be noted that only one response mentioned receiving information from a guidance counselor.

When asked about grade point average, transient students indicated

grade point averages ranging from 2.60 to 4.0 with an average for the 29 respondents of 3.27. This at first looks rather high, however it must be remembered that this is a self-report and students tend to over-inflate grade point reporting. Also, transient students are generally a motivated group of students. Overall, students rated the Campus environment and services very high. The three highest rated areas were registration, teaching quality and campus cleanliness. The only telling rating was in the category of course availability which received the most "average" rating responses. This coincides with the written comments of transient students who indicated the desire to have expanded course offerings.

The Campus ratings were high, indicating the general overall satisfaction of transient students with their Kent Trumbull experience.

IMPLICATIONS

Though we wouldn't want to base large scale practice or policy shifts on the number of students in this study, there are several clear implications.

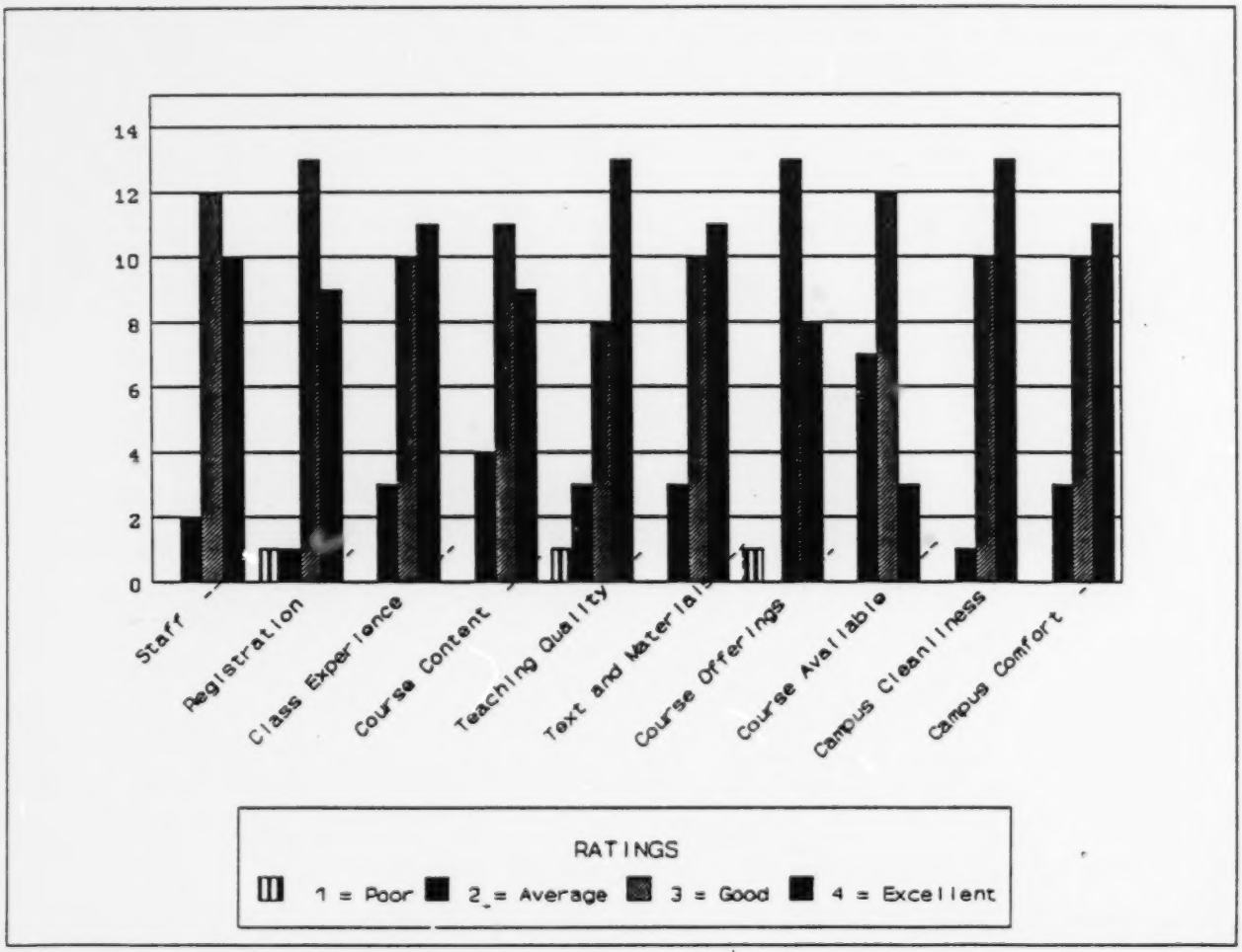
The majority of students indicated making their decision to attend summer classes on or before January. This coincides with the time that students come home for the holiday break. If we focus advertising our summer course offerings during the holiday vacation, we may be able to attract larger numbers of transient students.

The overwhelming majority of transient student respondents indicated they were beyond their freshman year, indicating the desire to take selected upper division courses. This is a request frequently made by transient students.

Students hear about Kent Trumbull from other students. We should communicate to current students, the idea of suggesting summer transient work to those of their friends who are attending universities elsewhere.

These are implications from this study of transient students. As we continue to monitor our transient student population, other implications for practice may be identified.

Student Ratings of Campus Environment and Services



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Students Comments
About Services

1. Help us to become more oriented with the campus.

2. Make registration less confusing.

Students Comments
In General

1. Everything was fine as is.

2. Maintain everything you're doing.

3. Not much more.

4. It was satisfactory to me.

5. My experience with Kent Trumbull was good and I would attend classes here again.

7. I can't think of anything specific. It has been a good experience overall.

Age		Grade Point	
Average	Range	Average	Range
21	18-24	3.27	2.60-4.00

Class Rank	Freshmen	Sophmores	Juniors	Seniors
	1	6	9	7

When students decided to attend summer classes.												
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1992								1		1		1
1993	8	1	6	1	1	2						

Students comments

About Courses

1. More selection of courses.
2. My first choice for summer was canceled.
3. More classes at more times.
4. Offer more courses with a wide variety of times.
5. Offer more of the courses especially in Summer III.
6. Expand on number of courses available. Have security until 10:00 pm.
7. Make Summer III five days a week so that the two hour lectures will be shortened to perhaps one hour and fifteen minutes.
8. If Kent could change their times to offer more morning or evening classes instead of daytime. People like to spend summer outside. Kent could also advertise when their summer schedule comes out.
9. Try to offer at least two courses from each general category of classes/ majors during each summer session. Other than that, really needs no improvement.
10. More course variety, if possible. Only one class is offered in communications - none in the athletic/sports science area (that is, if you offer it normally) very good job overall - that's why I came back this summer! I especially like Professor Caronite! He's great!
11. Have a wider course selection to choose from, for those who have dual majors. Or are in need of higher level courses. Overall, I truly enjoyed taking a summer course at Kent! Thanks!!
12. I wish that the regional campus were not just two-year programs. Thats why I went to Youngstown for my second degree. Now I'm sorry, because they aren't nearly the University that Kent is.

Responses to question 4
(What is your home college/university?)

One response each	Two responses each
Springfield College	University of Akron
Hiram Community College	Mount Union College
Clarion University , PA	Westminster College
Allegheny County Community College	
Ohio Wesleyan	
West Virginia University	
Bowling Green State University	
Wittenburg University	
Xavier	
Ithaca College	
Bucknell University	
Walsh College	
Malone College	
John Carroll University	
Youngstown State University	
Grove City College	
Ohio State University	
Ohio University	

Responses to question 5E
(How did you hear about summer sessions at Kent Trumbull?)

My brother attended Kent Trumbull, so I knew through him.

By calling Kent Trumbull for information on summer classes in general.

Seven students responded that they received their information from a friend.

Through my college advisor.

At Student Affairs.

Lived in Niles.

I went and asked about classes.

I attended Kent Trumbull for two-years.

I went and got information from the school.

Word of mouth.

We live in the area.

I was sent information about Kent summer school classes in the mail.

My sister Heather Pugh.

I live in Southington, so I came in person and inquired about them.

Friends, sister, and JCU.

I called and asked.

Courses Most Taken by Transient Students

Theo & Prac Oral Discourse

Abnormal Psychology

Accounting I Financial

Accounting II Managerial

Fundamentals of Chemistry

Intuitive Calculus

Fundamentals/Marketing

Prin of Microeconomics

Intro to Sociology

General Psychology

Intro to Computer Systems

Human Biology: Cells & Systems

Basic Microbiology

Prin of Thinking

Intro Business

Elem Prob. and Statistics

Intro to Philosophy

What Students Think Could Improve Our Summer Course Offerings and Service to Transient Students

Help us to become more oriented with the campus.

Make registration less confusing.

Everything was fine as is.

Maintain everything you're doing.

Not much more.

It was satisfactory to me.

My experience with Kent Trumbull was good and I would attend classes here again.

I can't think of anything specific. It has been a good experience overall.

If Kent could change their times to offer more morning or evening classes instead of daytime. People like to spend summer outside. Kent could also advertise when their summer schedule comes out.